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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

NSC UNDER SECRETARIES COMMITTEE

SECRET ATTACHMENT
NSC-U/N-182

November 9, 1976

TO: The Deputy Secretary of Defense
The Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs
The Director of Central Intelligence
The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
The Deputy Secretary of the Treasury
The Under Secretary of Commerce
The Under Secretary of Health, Education
and Welfare
The Under Secretary of Transportation
The Special Trade Representative
The Chairman, Council on Environmental
Quality
The Administrator, Environmental Protection
Agency
The Director, Office of Science and Technology
Policy
The Acting Director, National Science Foundation
The Director, United States Information Agency
The Acting Executive Director, Council on
International Economic Policy

SUBJECT: Fourth Quarterly Report on Implementation
of the Final Act of CSCE

REF: NSC-U/DM-137C

Pages 39 and 40 of the referenced report were
omitted in the reproduction process. Please insert
the attached pages in the copy you received.

Rutherford M. Poats
Rutherford M. Poats
Acting Staff Director

Attachments:

As stated

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for each adult may be a greater barrier than visa fees to travel to the East. We have asked US embassies in Eastern Europe for details on exchange requirements, as a first step in exploring the possibility of seeking reductions in exchange levels, at least for pensioners.

Soviet media and officials, including Brezhnev at the European Communist Party Conference in Berlin on June 29, have sharply criticized the US for refusing visas to Soviet labor representatives, and have cited such refusals as a violation of the CSCE provisions. A Soviet Embassy officer, when informed of the visa refusal, observed that the refusal came at a time when the US is pressing the USSR to implement the Basket III provisions. A high-ranking Soviet Foreign Ministry official, taking exception to the refusals on grounds of Communist Party membership, wondered what the reaction in the West would be if the USSR refused visas on the grounds that the applicants were Republicans, Democrats or European Christian Democrats.

In response to public and Congressional queries on the refusals, we pointed out that the labor

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representatives were refused under the terms of the Immigration and Nationality Act regarding Communist Party membership; that waivers of ineligibility were not recommended in keeping with long-standing policy in such cases; and that the views of the mainstream of the American labor movement were taken into account in the matter. In connection with the CSCE, we indicated that the US supports the provisions which generally promote travel and contact among individuals and organizations. However, there is no specific Final Act reference to travel and contacts among labor representatives because of the US position on the subject. In signing the Final Act, all participants were aware of our long-standing policy and had accepted our position against a reference to such exchanges.

On the other hand, the communist countries continue to refuse visas to individuals and groups. During the reporting period, the Soviet Union refused visas to an American rabbi and his associate without explanation. The Soviets also refused visas to a group of three Jewish newsmen from Buffalo because of the "anti-Soviet".

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